



Connecticut Business & Industry Association

**Testimony of Kia F. Murrell
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Before the Committee on Labor and Public Employees
Hartford, CT
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S.B. 363 AAC Workers' Compensation and Access to Health Care

Good Afternoon chairs and members of the Committee, I am Kia Murrell of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA), which CBIA represents more than 10,000 companies throughout the state of Connecticut, the majority of which are employers of 50 or less employees. CBIA generally supports legislation that does not increase the costs of doing business in the state or administrative burdens on employers in dealing with employment and workplace issues. Unfortunately, we believe that **S.B. 363 AAC Workers' Compensation and Access to Health Care** will needlessly drive up costs and waste the resources of the state workers' compensation system by encouraging people with long term injuries to receive medical examinations and possibly look for new reasons to remain out of work and receiving benefits. Therefore, we oppose this legislation.

S.B. 363 states as its purpose "[t]o improve access to health care for persons who have pending cases with the Workers' Compensation Commission," **by allowing any person who has an unresolved workers' compensation claim for a period of five years or more to be entitled a medical re-examination at the expense of their employer.**

The stated purpose of the legislation and its language are incongruent, in that providing additional employer-paid medical examinations will not necessarily provide workers compensation claimants with any more access to healthcare than they would have already had. This is because **in order to continue receiving workers comp benefits for a lengthy period, a claimant must periodically submit to medical examinations to ensure that benefits are necessary and appropriate.**

In addition, S.B. 363 may inadvertently encourage some injured workers to use the workers compensation medical provider to substantiate additional medical problems that could be attributed to the employer by the original injury. In cases where a medical condition worsens or degenerates over time and leads to another non-work related injury, it may not be chargeable to the employer. Consequently, this legislation, if enacted, could needlessly increase costs for employers and the workers compensation system as a whole. Therefore, we **oppose** this legislation and urge the committee to reject **S.B. 363**.